

REMARKS

Claims 10 and 11 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are pending. Claim 1 is independent. In the Final Office Action mailed May 12, 2003, Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,365,586 (Indeck). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Indeck in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,638,446 (Rubin). Applicants' remarks provided in the previous response are incorporated in their entirety.

Independent Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, preparing a label, said label comprising an unreproducible pattern and information relating to said article, describing said unreproducible pattern and including said description with said information relating to said article and securely associating said article, said label, and said tangible representation of said encrypted information.

As understood by Applicants, Indeck relates a method and apparatus for fingerprinting magnetic media. The fingerprinting is accomplished by determining the remanent noise in a magnetic medium by DC saturation of a region thereof and measurement of the remaining DC magnetization. Indeed, Indeck is directed to generating a fingerprint at a specified region of a thin film magnetic medium or tape and fails to disclose or suggest preparing a label that has an unreproducible pattern and information relating to said article, as recited in Claim 1.

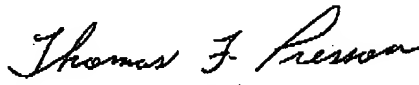
Furthermore, Applicants submit that Indeck fails to disclose or suggest describing the unreproducible pattern and including the description with information relating to the article and securely associating the article, the label, and the tangible representation of said encrypted information, as recited in Claim 1. Applicants submit that digitizing an analog remanent noise signal, and recording the signal in the medium itself or elsewhere, as disclosed in Indeck, does not anticipate the features of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is allowable.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from Claim 1, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' attorney may be reached at (203) 924-3845. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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